

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A backup system for a computer having a hard drive comprising:
2 a program appliance comprising a program attachable in data communication with the
3 computer; and
4 a data storage appliance attachable in data communication with the computer,
5 wherein the program is configured to copy the files from the hard drive to the data
6 storage appliance without installation of the program on the hard drive.
- 1 2. The backup system of claim 1 wherein the program appliance and the data storage
2 appliance are the same appliance.
- 1 3. The backup system of claim 1 wherein the program is further configured to execute
2 automatically upon the program appliance being attached to the computer.
- 1 4. The backup system of claim 1 wherein the program is further configured to copy the files
2 from the data storage appliance to the hard drive without installation of the program on
3 the hard drive.
- 1 5. The backup system of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a network in data communication with the computer; and
3 a server computer in data communication with the network,
4 wherein the data communication between the data storage appliance and the computer is
5 provided through the server.
- 1 6. The backup system of claim 5 wherein the program is further configured to copy the files
2 from the data storage appliance to the hard drive without installation of the program on
3 the hard drive.
- 1 7. The backup system of claim 5 wherein the program is further configured to execute
2 automatically upon the program appliance being attached to the computer.

- 1 8. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure comprising:
2 a storage address table; and
3 a plurality of files,
4 wherein the storage address table identifies a first backup with which a first set of the
5 plurality of files is identified, and
6 wherein the storage address table identifies a second backup with which a second set of
7 the plurality of files is identified, and
8 wherein files common to the first backup and the second backup are represented only
9 once within the plurality of files.
- 1 9. The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein the first backup and the second
2 backup are performed as to a first computer and a second computer, respectively.
- 1 10. The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein the first backup and the second
2 backup are performed as to a first computer at a first time and at a second time,
3 respectively.
- 1 11. The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein the storage address table comprises a
2 set of file names.
- 1 12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the storage address table is further
2 comprised essentially of:
3 a computer state tag;
4 a computer type;
5 a model number; and
6 a serial number.

- 1 13. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions
2 executable upon the attachment of a program appliance to a computer and for performing
3 the steps comprising:
4 checking the authorization of a user; and
5 copying files with reference to a data storage appliance.
- 1 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13,
2 wherein the step of copying files is done to the storage appliance.
- 1 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the step of copying files is done
2 from the storage appliance.
- 1 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15 having stored thereon computer-executable
2 instructions for performing the steps further comprising installing a recovery operating
3 system.
- 1 17. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 having stored thereon computer-executable
2 instructions for performing the steps further comprising selecting a set of files to be
3 copied.
- 1 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 16 having stored thereon computer-executable
2 instructions for performing the steps further comprising providing a set of basic functions
3 to a user.
- 1 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the set of basic functions comprises
2 file access.
- 1 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the set of basic functions is
2 comprised essentially of:
3 transfer of local and network files to a removable media;
4 access of local and network files;
5 e-mail; and

6 instant messaging.

1 21. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the set of basic functions comprises
2 access to encrypted media.

1 22. The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the step of installing a recovery
2 operating system is performed with reference to a PXE image.

- 1 23. A method for backing up a computer system comprising the steps of:
2 a user connecting an appliance to the computer system;
3 an operating system on the computer detecting the presence of the appliance;
4 the operating system executing a program stored on the appliance without storing the
5 program on the computer system;
6 the program checking the user's authorization level;
7 the program copying files from a hard drive within the computer system to a data store;
8 and
9 the user disconnecting the appliance from the computer system.
- 1 24. The method of claim 23 wherein the data store is the appliance.
- 1 25. The method of claim 23 wherein the data store is within a second appliance.
- 1 26. The method of claim 23 wherein the data store is accessible via a network, the network
2 being in data communication with the computer system.
- 1 27. The method of claim 23 further comprising the steps of:
2 the user subsequently attaching the appliance to the computer system;
3 an operating system on the computer detecting the presence of the appliance;
4 the operating system executing the program stored on the appliance;
5 the program checking the user's authorization level; and
6 the program copying files from the data store to the hard drive.
- 1 28. The method of claim 23 further comprising the steps of:
2 the user subsequently attaching the appliance to the computer system;
3 a BIOS on the computer detecting the presence of the appliance;
4 the BIOS executing a boot program stored on the appliance;
5 the boot program copying a temporary operating system from the appliance to the hard
6 drive;

- 7 the computer rebooting; and
8 the program copying files from the data store to the hard drive.
- 1 29. The method of claim 27 wherein the data store is the appliance.
- 1 30. The method of claim 28 wherein the data store is the appliance.
- 1 31. The method of claim 28 wherein the data store is accessible via a network, the network
2 being in data communication with the computer system.